

Heat and Drought of 2012



Mary Lamm
Service Hydrologist



Winter Weather Workshop

How Hot Was It?

- At Paducah:
 - Warmest March on record (60.6°)
 - 4th warmest May on record (72.3°)
 - Warmest July on record (84.5°)
 - 4th warmest April-June
 - Warmest May-July
 - July was the warmest month on record

Paducah Heat

- Between March and August 23 high temperature records tied or broken
- Tied the all time record high of 108° on June 29
- Hit 100° or higher 18 days

How Hot Was It?

- At Evansville:
 - Warmest March on record (59.4°)
 - 2nd warmest May on record (72.1°)
 - 2nd warmest July on record (84.5°)
 - 5th warmest April-June
 - 2nd warmest May-July

Evansville Heat

- Between March and August 22 high temperature records tied or broken
- Set the highest maximum temperature for June with 107° on June 28 and 29
- Hit 100° or higher 14 days

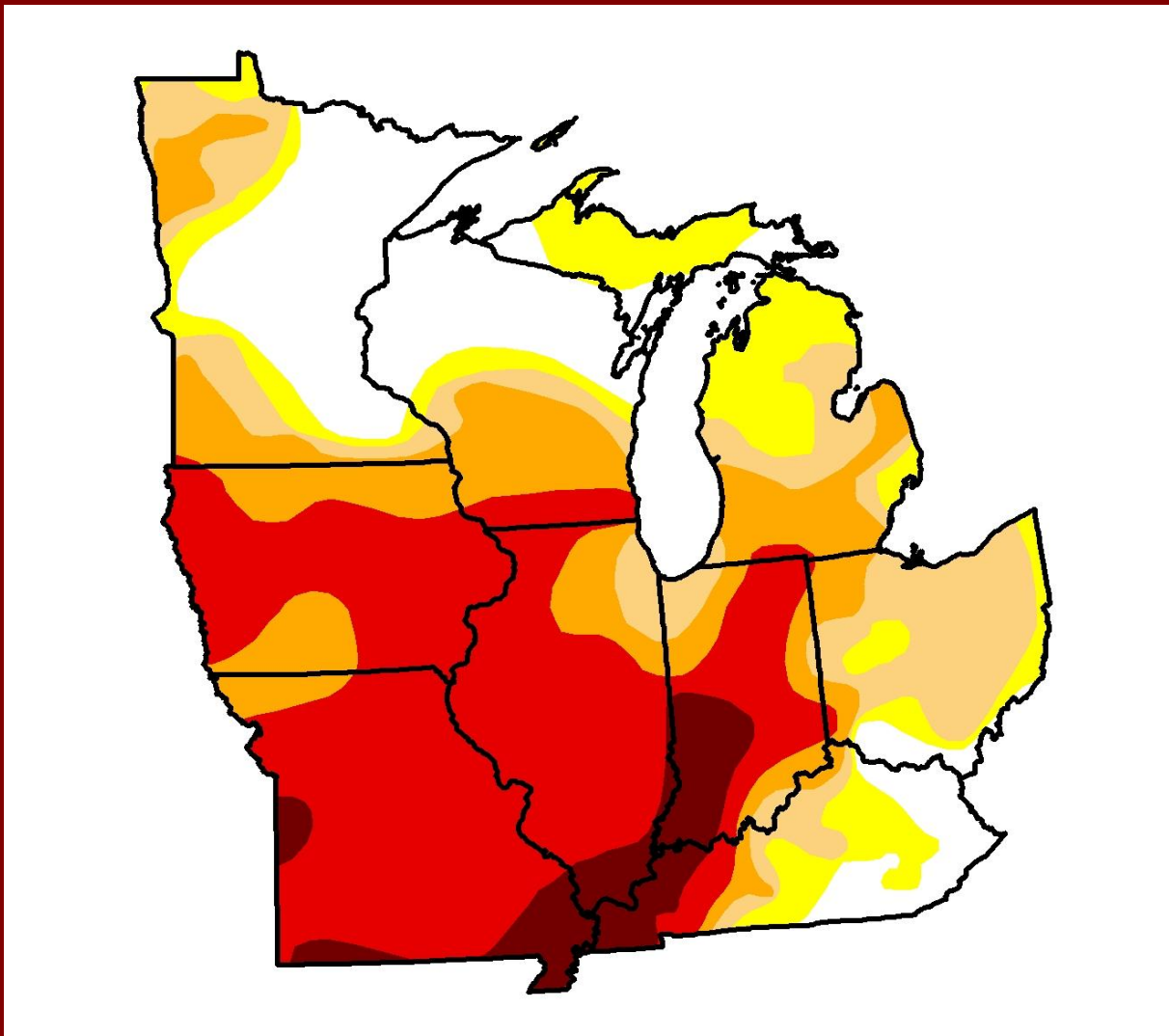
How Hot Was It?

- At Cape Girardeau:
 - Warmest March on record (59.7°)
 - 5th warmest May on record (72.0°)
 - Tied for the warmest July on record (83.6°)
 - 2nd warmest May-July
 - July was the warmest month on record

Cape Girardeau Heat

- Between March and August 22 high temperature records tied or broken
- Hit 100° or higher 12 days

Drought 2012



THIS DROUGHT
IS REALLY DOING
A NUMBER ON
YOUR HAYFIELD.

THIS IS
CORN.



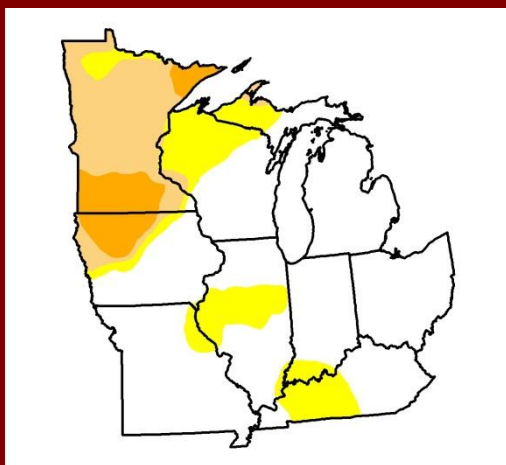
Drought 2012

- Below normal precipitation across the region began occurring as early as February of this year.
- Paducah had the driest April (0.56") and May (0.39"); the driest April-June (1.85") and May-July (3.07")
- Evansville had the driest June (0.15"); the driest April-June (3.88"); 5th driest May-July (4.78")
- Cape Girardeau had the 3rd driest April (1.35"), the 2nd driest May (0.79") and the 5th driest June (1.37"); the 2nd driest April-June (3.51") and the driest May-July (4.40")

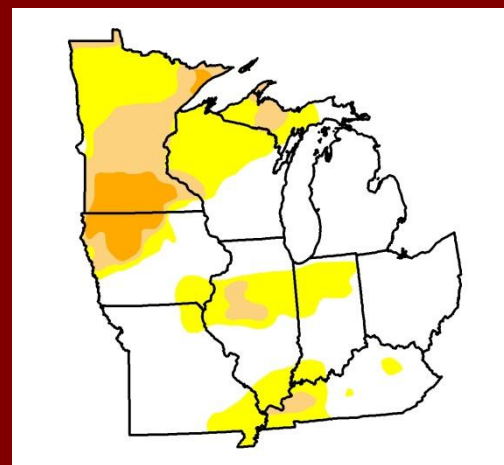
Drought Classifications

- D0 - Abnormally Dry
- D1 - Moderate Drought
- D2 - Severe Drought
- D3 - Extreme Drought
- D4 - Exceptional Drought

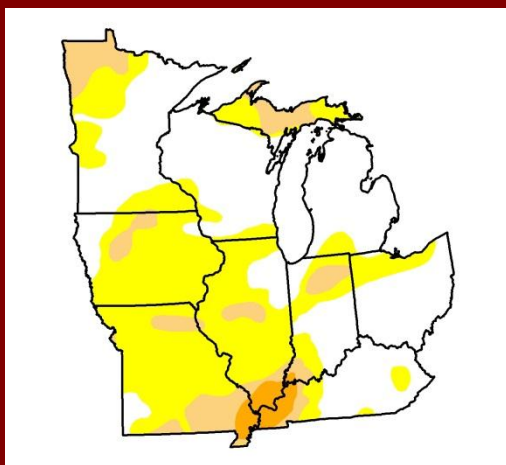
Drought Monitor



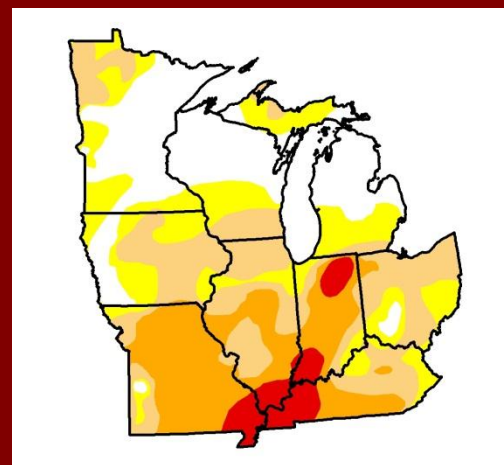
4/3/2012



5/1/2012



6/5/2012

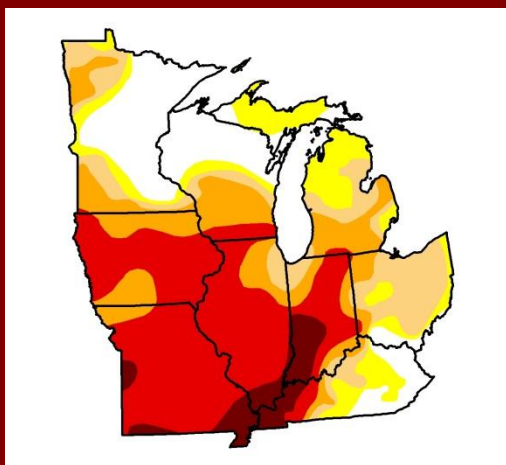


7/3/2012

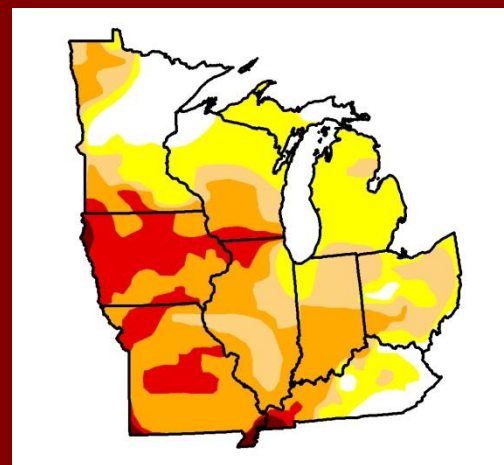
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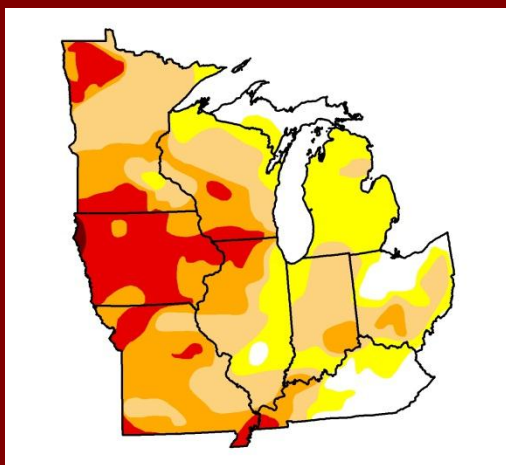
Drought Monitor



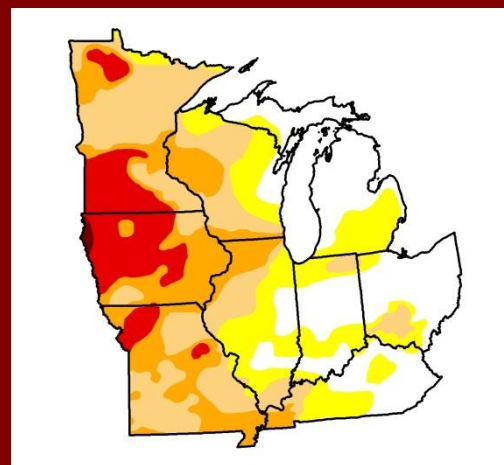
8/7/2012



9/4/2012



10/2/2012



11/6/2012

Drought Impacts

Agriculture

- Most counties declared natural disaster areas
- Livestock ponds low or dried up
- Pastures dried up; winter hay used
- Pig and cattle sold off early driving pork and beef prices up
- Some farmers invested in irrigation systems for the first time
- Corn harvested for silage

Drought Impacts

Forestry

- Some trees lost their leaves early
- Numerous burn bans
- Field and brush fires were easily ignited due to dry conditions and low humidity
- Fireworks banned in many areas on the Fourth of July

Drought Impacts

Homeowners

- Damaged home foundations
- Communities dependent on local lakes for water supply put on watch due to shrinking water levels
- Voluntary water restrictions
- Wells did not produce enough or went dry
- Trees and bushes died

Drought Impacts

Navigation

- Continuous dredging through the summer on the lower Ohio River
- Due to low water, barges could not be loaded to capacity
- Low water also meant narrower channels, towboats pulled fewer barges
- Slow to stopped barge traffic

Any Questions?

